Manitoba

SPORT POLICY

92-00540/

INTRODUCTION

The Sport Policy for the Government of Manitoba envisions an environment that promotes and encourages participation and achievement in sport by providing opportunity which inspires the pursuit of excellence and the joy of effort. The Government of Manitoba believes that sport is for all Manitobans and that all Manitobans should have the opportunity to participate in sport activities of their choice and at their skill level. The Sport Policy is designed to address the needs of Manitobans at all levels of participation in sport from the grassroots to elite levels.

In building and enhancing healthy lifestyles, preventative health promotion, community participation, volunteerism, partnerships, and the socio-economic benefits provided through sport, the Sport Policy is consistent with the Government's overall strategy and priority to enhance the quality of life for Manitobans.

Sport in Manitoba has undergone significant growth and maturation over the last two decades since the Provincial Government first became involved with the enactment of the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act in 1962. The Sport Policy will enable Manitoba to meet the challenges of the 1990's to sustain continued growth and to maintain a cohesive approach to sport among all partners of the sport community.

The task of developing a Sport Policy for the Government of Manitoba was given to a Sport Policy Advisory Committee that represented a broad cross-section of sport experience in Manitoba. The committee developed a discussion paper which was circulated to the sport community and served as the basis for a discussion in a series of public forums attended by 246 people from 65 communities across the province. All oral and written submissions were reviewed by the committee and developed into the recommendations which were subjected to a professionally audited sport feedback survey and circulated to all municipalities for further comment.

The Sport Policy for the Government of Manitoba thus encompasses the views of a wide cross-section of Manitobans. The definition, role statement, beliefs and policy statements address the most critical issues facing sport in the next decade and through the objectives confirms the Government's on-going commitment to the development and growth of the best possible sport environment for the benefit of all Manitobans.

In addition, it will help to promote a cohesive approach to sport among the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments as well as among the other partners of the sport community. It will also allow the Sport Directorate to help ensure that its role in promoting sport is integrated into the Provincial Government's overall strategies and priorities.

A. DEFINITION OF SPORT

In establishing a Sport Policy, the basic foundation must be a clear, generally accepted definition of sport. There are numerous definitions of sport which have been adopted by different organizations and it is important that the definition of sport be consistent with definitions adopted by the major partners in sport in Manitoba.

The definition, then, follows:

"Sport is a human activity in which people compete at varying levels of physical exertion, using their strength, will, spirit, co-ordination and intellect to obtain measurable results."

B. PROVINCE OF MANITOBA ROLE STATEMENT

The Province of Manitoba considers it a priority to develop a sport environment that promotes and encourages participation and achievement in sport. This will provide Manitobans with significant personal, social, health,economic and cultural benefits.

The Government of Manitoba believes in the importance of these benefits to Manitoba society, as well as in the intrinsic value of sport as a human activity which inspires the pursuit of excellence and the joy of effort.

The Government of Manitoba believes that sport delivery is a partnership involving the volunteers, community organizations, province, municipalities, school divisions, provincial and regional sport organizations.

In fulfilling this role, the Government of Manitoba will strive to demonstrate the following beliefs:

ACCESSIBILITY - All Manitobans should have the opportunity to participate in sport activities at reasonable costs for facilities and coaching.

ATHLETES AND COACHES - Athletes and coaches must continue to be recognized as the cornerstone of sport.

CONTINUUM OF SPORT - All individuals have the opportunity to participate at the skill level of their ability or choice. An integrated sport delivery system should encourage and facilitate movement between various levels.

EQUITY - Sport is for all Manitobans regardless of age, sex, creed, ability, socio-economic background or location.

FACILITIES - Participants should have suitable and adequate sport facilities wherever possible and economically viable.

FAIR PLAY - All participants have the obligation to participate in a manner which upholds the highest ethics of fair play and which respects the rights and well-being of other participants.

HEALTH AND SAFETY - Sport programs and facilities should preserve the physical and emotional health and safety of participants.

LEADERSHIP - Development of professional and volunteer leaders within the sport system is integral to continued effectiveness of the sport system.

OFFICIALS AND SPORT MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS - Proper officiating and medical support is integral to the effective delivery of sport.

SELF DEVELOPMENT - The opportunity to develop one's potential and preserve one's overall well-being should be available to all participants.

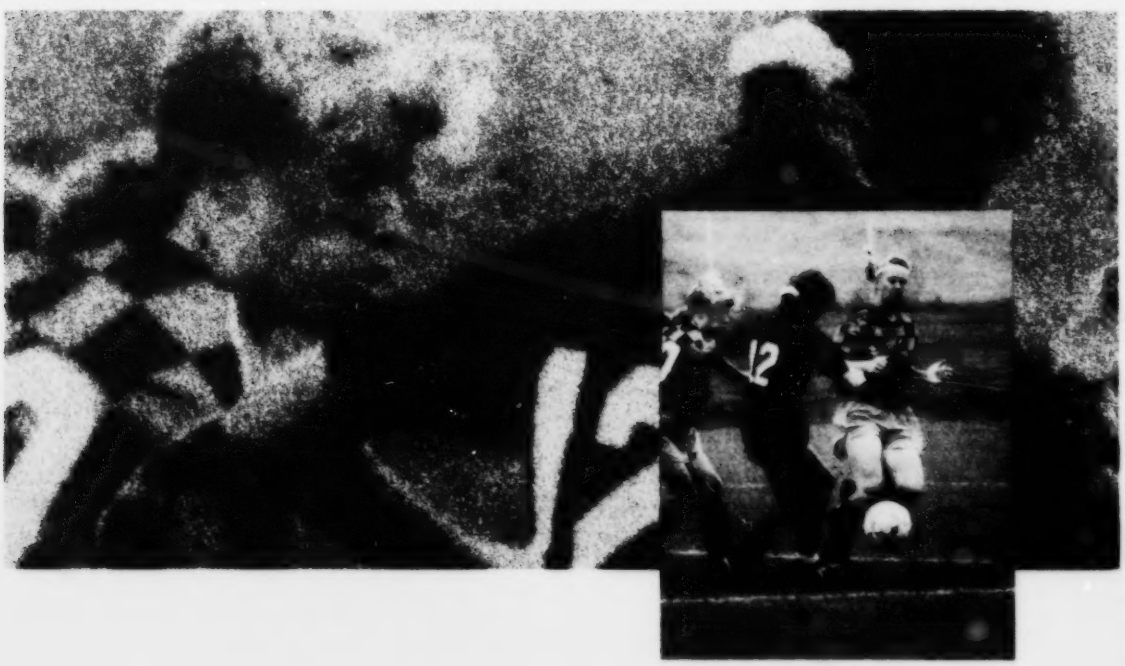
VOLUNTEERISM - Volunteers and volunteerism are the foundation of the sport system. Professional administration of sport should be focused on increasing the effectiveness of volunteers.

C. KEY POLICY STATEMENTS

The key policies flowing from the Provincial Government Role Statement address:

1. The focus on Athletes, Coaches and Officials;
2. The Delivery of Sport in Manitoba;
3. Recreation and Sport;
4. Sport Recognition;
5. Fair Play;
6. The Promotion of the Value of Sport;
7. Education and Sport;
8. Sport Facilities;
9. Accountability, and
10. Professional and Volunteer Sport Support.

This document, a Sport Policy for the Government of Manitoba, focuses on describing how the Government can improve the sport environment in Manitoba. The policy statements and objectives are not ranked by order of importance but rather form a total package of goals for the future. The Policy does not attempt to be an exhaustive discussion of all issues facing sport in Manitoba but addresses those issues which will be most critical, over the next decade, in providing the finest possible environment for Sport.



1. THE FOCUS ON ATHLETES, COACHES AND OFFICIALS

Policy Statement:

In order to more effectively promote and develop sport in Manitoba, the Government will pursue, on an ongoing basis, a better understanding of the needs, and requirements for development, of athletes, coaches and officials.

Objectives:

1.1 To develop a clear understanding of athlete development and the role of coaches and officials, and ensure that appropriate proportions of sport resources are used for athletes, coaches and officials throughout the continuum of sport.

1.2 To facilitate the development of a clear statement of "Athletic Goals" and "Coaching Goals" in Manitoba to define the desired level and scope of achievement by Manitoba athletes and coaches.

1.3 To ensure there is no duplication of services and support to athletes, coaches and officials.

1.4 To develop in athletes, coaches and officials, beliefs and characteristics which reflect the intrinsic value of sport as human activity which inspires the pursuit of excellence and the joy of effort.

2. THE DELIVERY OF SPORT IN MANITOBA

Policy Statement:

The Government of Manitoba will ensure that the delivery of sport is cohesive and consistent with an overall plan for sport, to enable all members of the sport delivery system to have a clear understanding of the roles within the system.

Objectives:

2.1 To alleviate the uncertainty and perceived duplication surrounding the roles and responsibilities between the Manitoba Sports Federation and the Government of Manitoba.

2.2 To clarify the name and role of the Sport Directorate as the key administrative body for sport for the Government of Manitoba.

2.3 To support Regional Sport Associations in ensuring that they facilitate the delivery of sport in Manitoba.

2.4 To support Sport Governing Bodies in ensuring the development and delivery of sport in Manitoba.

2.5 To clarify the role of physical education in sport.

2.6 To ensure that an integrated and co-ordinated plan for sport exists. The responsibility for planning would remain with the partners, but the Government of Manitoba would co-ordinate their integration into an overall plan.

2.7 To ensure that each of the Sport Partners is implementing an effective program of self-evaluation.

2.8 To communicate to the Sport Community the roles and responsibilities of each of the Sport Partners.

2.9 To ensure that Games continue to be an integral component of the delivery system.

2.10 To encourage the development of new initiatives within sport.

2.11 To encourage the Partners to establish a clear responsibility for the delivery of sport within the Province of Manitoba.

2.12 To establish a Sport Advisory Committee (SAC), to provide the Minister responsible for Fitness and Sport with ongoing representation from the sport community on issues of importance to sport. The mandate for this committee would be to advise the Minister on an ongoing basis of the issues, trends, and challenges facing sport in Manitoba.

2.13 To facilitate co-operation between members of the sport community, and to maximize benefits from programs.

2.14 To provide resources for the development of sport within remote communities in Manitoba.

2.15 In recognition of the geographic differences within Manitoba, to provide resources to the various regions.

2.16 To encourage leadership by women in sport.

2.17 To encourage the participation and integration of groups with special needs into the sport delivery system.

3. SPORT, PHYSICAL RECREATION AND FITNESS

Policy Statement:

The Government of Manitoba recognizes the integral links between sport, physical recreation and fitness, and will ensure a co-ordinated approach to their delivery.

Objectives:

3.1 To establish regular communications and planning between the Ministers responsible for Sport, Physical Recreation and Fitness in order to identify the appropriate means and methods for co-ordinating the delivery of sport, physical recreation and fitness.

3.2 To ensure that the goals and objectives of the Government of Manitoba with respect to sport, physical recreation and fitness are consistent.

3.3 To recognize and clarify the vital role that Recreation Directors/ Recreation Commissions play in delivering sport in Manitoba.

3.4 To ensure that sport, physical recreation and fitness within Manitoba work together for the betterment of Manitobans.

4. SPORT RECOGNITION

Policy Statement:

The Government of Manitoba recognizes a wide range and level of sport activities and will provide for varying resources to these activities based on their role within Manitoba society.

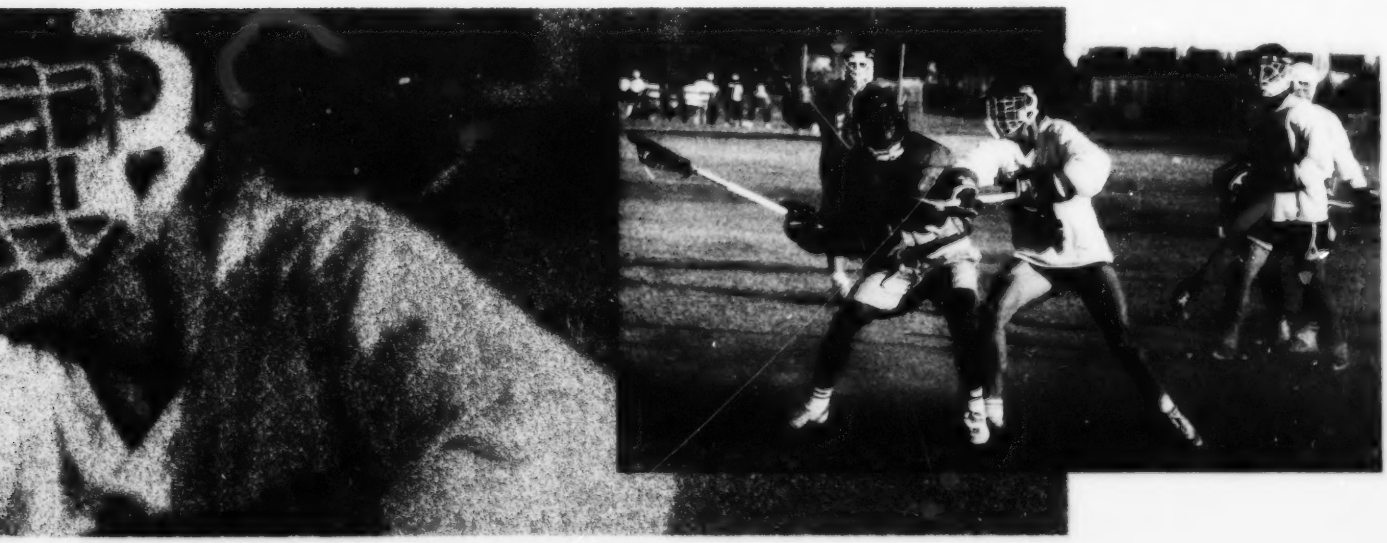
Objectives:

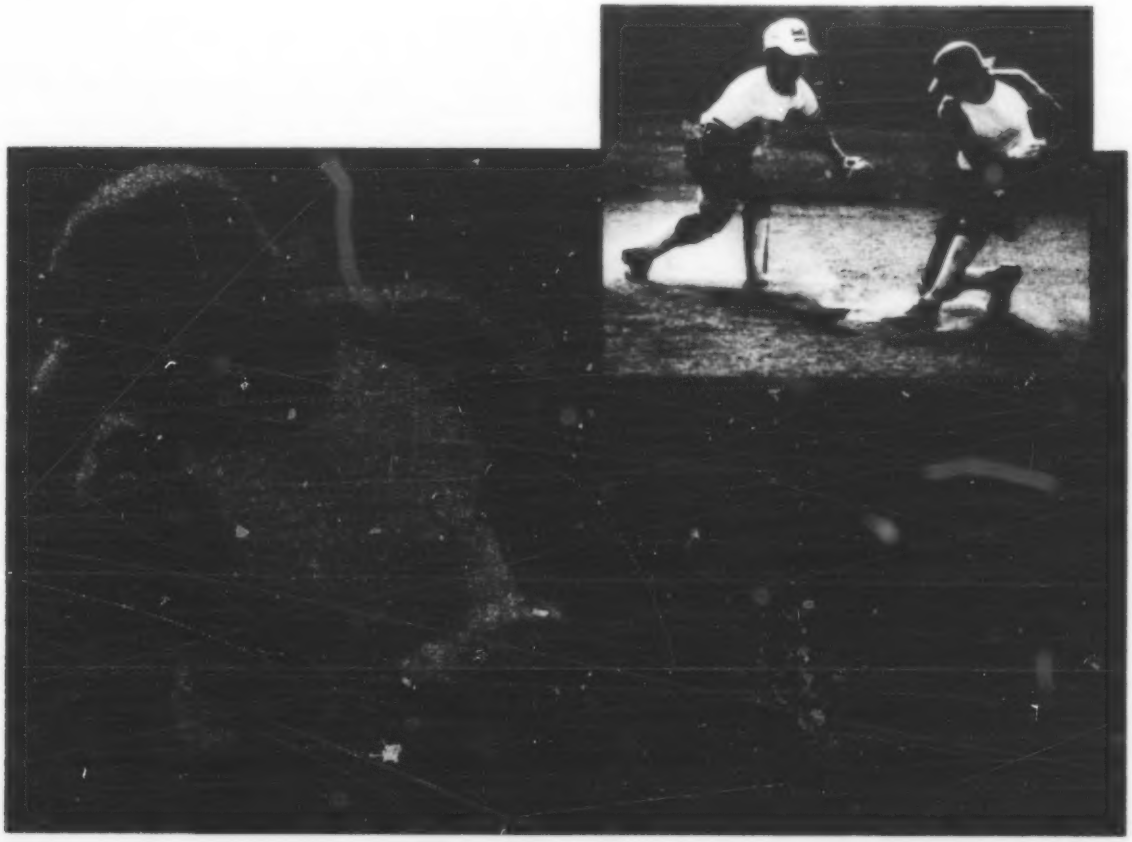
4.1 To develop and implement Sport Recognition Criteria based on the definition of sport contained in the Policy Statement.

4.2 To develop categories of sport which categorize recognized sport organizations into levels based on the degree to which they are integral components of Sport in Manitoba as determined by:

- wide participation throughout the province;
- accessibility of facilities and equipment, coaches and competitions;
- positive impacts on the health, fitness and lifestyles of Manitoba;
- inclusion in major multi-sport Games, and
- the extent to which the activity is a traditional Manitoba sport.

4.3 To provide resources within these Sport Support Categories based on the extent to which the planned and actual programs of the sport organization are reflective of the Manitoba Sport Policy.





5. FAIR PLAY

Policy Statement:

The Government of Manitoba will seek to ensure that the highest standards of fair play are maintained at all levels within the sport system.

Objectives:

5.1 To promote the principles and practise of fair play (integrity, fairness and respect) at all levels of the sport community among coaches, athletes, officials and parents.

5.2 To establish, in conjunction with the Sport Medicine Council, the Coaches Association of Manitoba and all levels of Government, a co-ordinated policy to address substance abuse within the sport system.

5.3 To establish and promote provincial safety guidelines for sport participants.

6. PROMOTION OF THE VALUE OF SPORT

Policy Statement:

The Minister responsible for sport will communicate the value of sport and its contributions to Manitoba society throughout the Government, the sport community and the public.

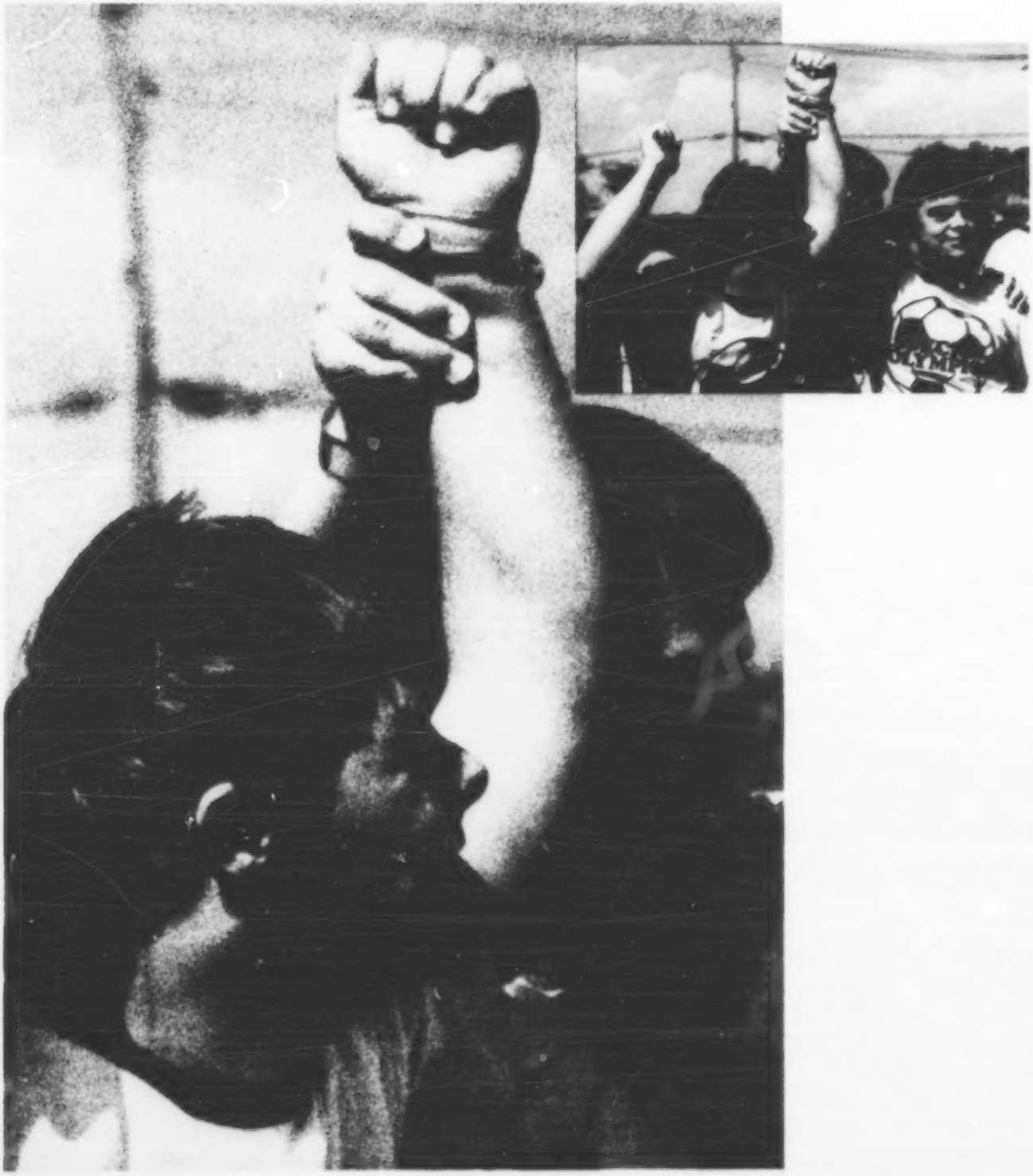
Objectives:

6.1 To promote the value and contributions, and enhance the image, of sport to the educational system, the corporate sector, the media, the various levels of Government in the Province, participants and the public.

6.2 To work with other Provincial Government departments to ensure mutual awareness of programs, and to develop joint programs in order to help meet the objectives of all departments.

6.3 To encourage Manitobans to participate within the sport system for the personal, social, economic, health, tourism, cultural and entertainment benefits resulting from sport activity.

6.4 To review, on an ongoing basis, the public perception of the value of sport.



7. EDUCATION AND SPORT

Policy Statement

The Government of Manitoba recognizes that the education system is an integral component of the sport delivery system in Manitoba, and will encourage the educational system to enhance the role of sport in education and education in sport.

Objectives

7.1 To establish regular communication and planning between the Ministers responsible for Sport and Education in order to identify, on an ongoing basis, the appropriate means for encouraging the integration of sport and education.

7.2 To communicate to all members of the educational system the value of sport within education in developing leadership, character, and healthy lifestyles.

7.3 To strongly encourage mandatory daily physical education from kindergarten to grade 12.

7.4 To develop appropriate mechanisms and programs to assist educators involved in sport.

7.5 To develop leaders in the sport community by enhancing the quality of sport education within the school system.

7.6 To maximize the utilization of school facilities by all members of the sport community.

8. SPORT FACILITIES

Policy Statement

The Government of Manitoba will ensure a cohesive, comprehensive approach to the development and use of sport facilities within Manitoba.

Objectives

8.1 To encourage a cohesive approach toward sport facility development and usage.

8.2 To stimulate the development of new sport facilities by encouraging the attraction of major multi-sport games and national and international championships to Manitoba.

8.3 To ensure that all Provincial Government funding for sport facilities is co-ordinated through the Ministers responsible for Sport, Physical Recreation, and Fitness.

8.4 To ensure the availability of proper planning, consultation and training for the effective management and operation of sport facilities by the sport community.

9. ACCOUNTABILITY

Policy Statement

The Government of Manitoba will ensure that resources designated for sport are subject to the highest levels of fiscal, administrative and program accountability.

Objectives

9.1 To ensure funds spent directly by the Province of Manitoba are utilized efficiently and effectively.

9.2 To ensure that the sport organizations, to which sport resources are allocated, are utilizing sound fiscal, administrative and program procedures and achieving high levels of effectiveness.

9.3 To ensure that appropriate balance is maintained between administrative and program support, and that administrative funding does not exceed program funding.

10. PROFESSIONAL & VOLUNTEER SPORT SUPPORT

Policy Statement

The Government of Manitoba will seek to ensure that the professional and volunteer administrators of sport provide the appropriate support to the sport system, with adequate resources, in an efficient and effective manner.

Objectives

10.1 To ensure that the sport system provides adequate training for sport volunteers and professionals.

10.2 To ensure that volunteers are used to their full capacity throughout the sport system.

10.3 To ensure that neither volunteers nor professional administrators duplicate services.

10.4 To ensure that administrative time and expenditures are used as effectively as possible.

The Province of Manitoba thanks the many Manitobans who made contributions during the discussion stage of the Sport Policy. Special appreciation to those Manitobans who served on the Sport Policy Advisory Committee for the time and energy spent in the devleopment of the Sport Policy:

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